霧島珠樹

9月3日生まれ。乙女座日型人間・京都府出身&在住。

アクションシーンの多い漫画を描いてますが、本人はいろんなイミでキワキワなジジィです。以後、お見知りおきを……ヨロシク。

ボニタ COMICS

傀儡奇譚・昏い獣

闇に哭く鬼 1

霧島珠樹

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BONITA COMICS

恐怖・嫉妬・卑屈な心に潜む"陰鬼"を倒すため存在した異能力者―傀儡師―。時は現代。そのたった一人の生き残りの匡が動き出す。陰鬼狩りのために。そして、書切り者の叉夜桜を捜すために…!!

Yami ni Naku Oni
Pikopepper
Kalendel
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Storm in Heaven
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霧島珠樹
TAMAKI KIRISHIMA
STORY OF THE PUPPET & THE DARK BEAST
Kami ni Naku Oni
CRY OF DEMON IN THE DARKNESS

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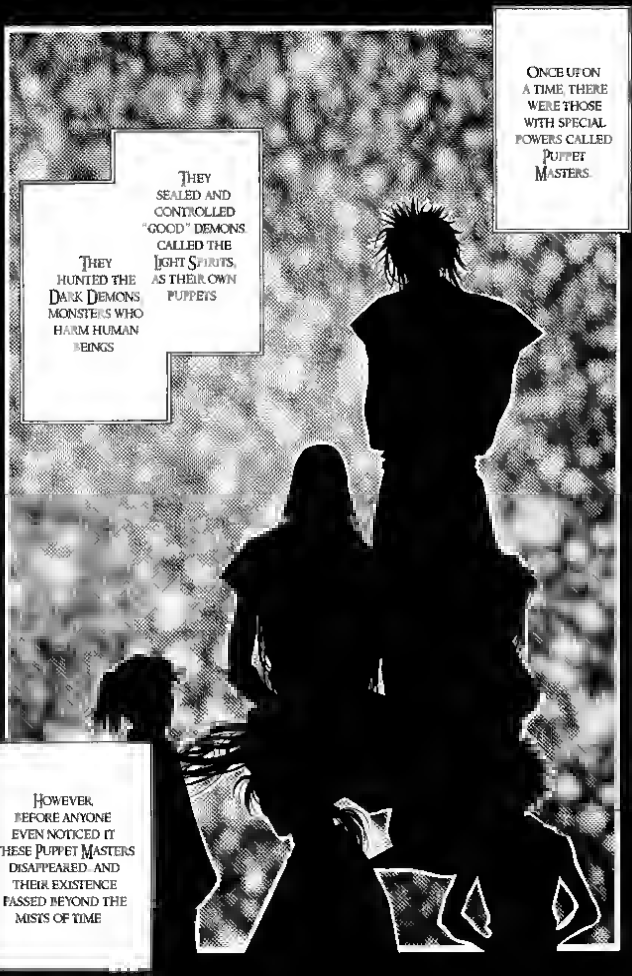
Yami di Naku Oni

1

Story of the Puppet "The Dark Beast"


ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WERE THOSE WITH SPECIAL POWERS CALLED PUPPET MASTERS.
THEY SEALED AND CONTROLLED "GOOD" DEMONS CALLED THE LIGHT SPIRITS, AS THEIR OWN PUPPETS
THEY HUNTED THE DARK DEMONS, MONSTERS WHO HARM HUMAN BEINGS
HOWEVER, BEFORE ANYONE EVEN NOTICED IT THESE PUPPET MASTERS DISAPPEARED, AND THEIR EXISTENCE PASSED BEYOND THE MISTS OF TIME

Story of the Puppet: The Dark Beast
Di
Naka
Odi
Chapter One

I'M NOT HOME RIGHT NOW
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE BEEP
WHAT? YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN HOME YET?
TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOUR BOY-FRIEND AND YOUR TRIP WHEN YOU GET BACK.
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MY SOUVENIR TOO, OKAY?
twitch
twitch
FSHH

twitch
...Oh?
ANOTHER EVIL AURA IS COMING THIS WAY TOO...
BUT IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE SUCH A HUGE ONE HAS SHOWN UP
BLANK
!
DAMN, IT'S GONE!
DARK DEMONS HAVE EXISTED ALL AROUND US SINCE LONG AGO...
BUT WITH THEIR NUMBERS INCREASING LATELY...
RATTLE
CLATTER
SHUD-DUP! I AIN'T...
GONNA LET THIS ONE ESCAPE, YA KNOW.
RATTLE
CLATTER
IT'S BECOME QUITE A PROBLEM FOR ME...
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN IF IT'S A BIG ONE OR NOT...

ALL DARK DEMONS ARE...
MY PREY.
WHY ONLY ME ?
THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
PLEASE COME BACK INSIDE!
S-S-S-T-T
I HATE THEM ... EVERY ONE OF THOSE HAPPY BASTARDS
I WANT TO DESTROY THEM ALL
NO, YOU DON'T!

PLEASE DON'T LOSE YOUR-SELF!
YOU'RE JUST BEING POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON THAT'S FEEDING OFF YOUR NEGATIVE EMOTIONS!
SHUT UP...
JUST WHAT DO YOU WANT, AHMAN!?
OH, I'M SORRY. MY NAME'S GIEN.
I'M THE HEAD PRIEST AT THE ONTOKU TEMPLE...
CHOP
GET LOST,
IDIOT.

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
TAP TAP
SIGH!
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT DON'T JUST WALK UP TO HER!
DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
IF YOU COME CLOSER, I'LL JUMP!
YOU DON'T WANT THAT, DO YOU!?
JUMP
!!!!
PUMP
OHI
OHI

FLARE
GO!
SLIP
SHIRA-YUKI,
KURO-MINE!
WSH
!!
M

HEY, C'MON, IF YOU RUN NOW IT'S JUST PROOF THAT YOU'RE A SMALL FRY, YA KNOW?
GRAB
WELL, I'M NOT LETTIN' YOU GET AWAY.
WISH

WSH
KYO!?
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH HER?
HAH? WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE
JUST PUT IT DOWN OVER THERE
Like I have a damn
BUT SHE MIGHT DIE OUT HERE
WE SHOULD AT LEAST ASK THE BOY ON THE ROOF TO TAKE CARE OF HER
DIDN'T HE SAY HE WAS FROM ONTOKU TEMPLE?
WHY DON'T WE TAKE HIM BACK THERE, THEN?
GRIN
HUH!?
YOU'RE BEING NICE FOR ONCE! ARE YOU SICK OR SOMETHING!?
ALL RIGHT, YOU GO AHEAD
'CUSE ME
Passed Out

HU... WHA...?
ONTOKU TEMPLE
JOLT
WH— WHO'RE YOU!?
I WAS WORRIED YOU WEREN'T GOING TO GET UP...
AH, YOU'RE AWAKE?
YOU'RE SO LOUD DON'T SCREAM, YOU'RE SPOILING THE MEAL
SORRY WE USED YOUR KITCHEN WITHOUT ASKING
BUT IF YOU'RE HUNGRY WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
I EVEN REFRAINED FROM EATING YOUR FOOD, THOUGH WE DID EAT OUR OWN FOOD!
MUNCH MUNCH
...AND I'M ASKING, JUST WHO ARE YOU FOLKS!?

I'M KYOU, A PUPPET MASTER.
I HUNT DARK DEMONS
OVER HERE ARE MY SERVANTS
SHIRA-YUKI THE PHOENIX
AND KURO-MINE, THE DRAGON.
HI!
HUH... PHOENIX AND DRAGON —!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE THE ONES FROM EARLIER?
THAT'S CORRECT
OH!
Since there are other folks around
OH YEAH, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DARK DEMON!?
BUT IT WAS EASIER TO BRING YOU HERE IN THESE FORMS.
WE'RE USUALLY SEALED INSIDE THE PUPPETS KYOU MADE
THOSE WERE OUR TRUE FORMS,
BUT WE CAN ALSO CHANGE INTO HUMAN FORMS.
Ramble
Ramble
Ramble

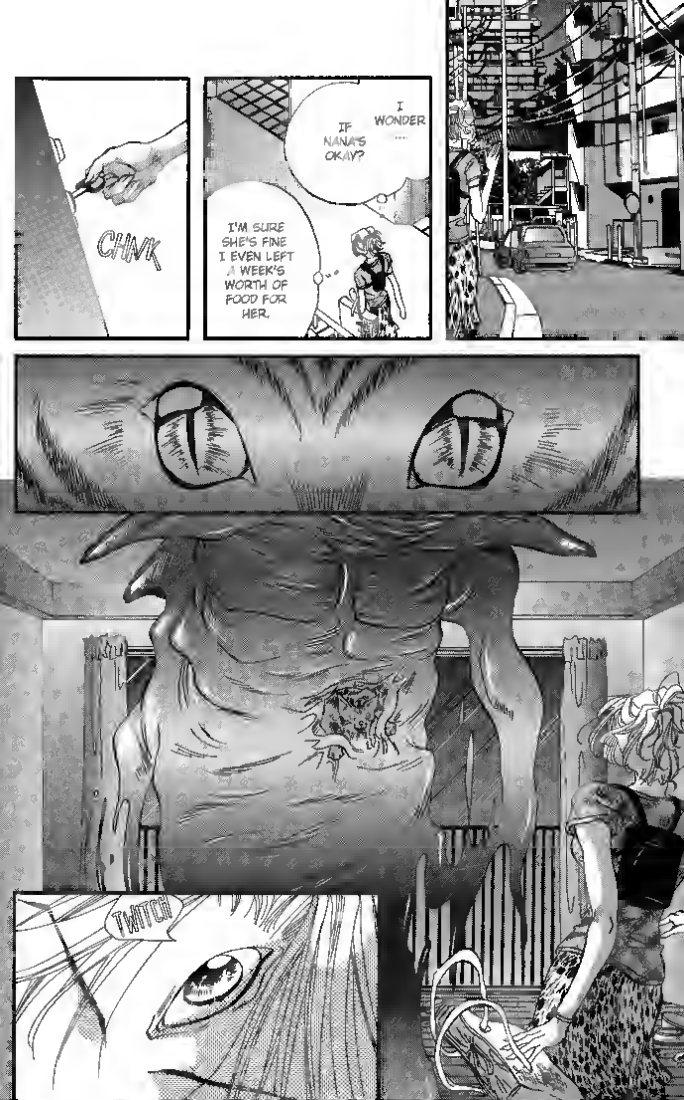
OH, DON'T WORRY! KYOU IS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF EVERY-THING
SO NOW THAT YOU'RE IN OUR DEBT
WE'RE GONNA IMPOSE ON YOU FOR A LITTLE WHILE
Pew
THANKS FOR THAT
I CAN SENSE THE AURA OF A HUGE DARK DEMON NEARBY
SO WE'LL HANG AROUND HERE UNTIL WE TAKE CARE OF IT
SURE... ARE WE IN THE SAME TRADE?
TONK
I'M AN EXORCIST
THAT'S THE JOB OF EACH SUCCESSOR HERE AT ONTOKU TEMPLE
ANYWAY, YOU CAN'T BE ONE, 'CAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT
BUT YOU AIN'T NO PUPPET MASTER, ARE YA?
HOLD ON A SEC

THE HELL!?
A BRAT LIKE YOU IS IN CHARGE HERE!?
I'M NOT A KID
I'M ABOUT TO GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL
This year
March
NOW, NOW
SO YOU'RE A BRAT
HEH
BUT WHERE ARE YOUR PARENTS?
I CAN'T SENSE ANYONE ELSE AROUND HERE
THAT'S RIGHT
THEY DIED ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO
THEY WERE KILLED BY SOME DARK DEMON
AN EXORCIST'S DUTY IS TO FIGHT THE DARK DEMONS
IT WAS DURING ONE OF THOSE FIGHTS
OH IS THAT SO?

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
IT'S OKAY.
I TAKE PRIDE IN MY PREDECESSORS, AND MY JOB AS AN EXORCIST AS WELL.
I BECAME AN OFFICIAL EXORCIST, LEARNED THE CHANTS, AND INHERITED THE SWORD OF DESTRUCTION TO BRING DOWN THE DARK DEMONS
I'M JUST HAPPY I CAN BE OF SOME USE TO OTHERS
EVEN DURING AN EXORCISM, I ALWAYS FEEL A LITTLE EMPATHY FOR MY ENEMY
KEH, LEMME TELL YOU SOMETHIN'
I'VE GOT NO INTEREST IN USELESS SHIT LIKE PRIDE.
I'M JUST GOING TO KILL ALL THE DARK DEMONS DOWN TO THE VERY LAST ONE
AND YOU'D BETTER STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
WHAT?

YOU'RE JUST A BIG BULLY, AREN'T YOU!?
KILL OR BE KILLED.
YOU DON'T SUB-SCRIBE TO ANY POLICY, DO YOU?
IF IT'S POLICY YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT I DO HAVE ONE—
AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT'S MY WAY OF SURVIVAL, NOT JUST FOR MY JOB...
ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY GETS THE SAME TREATMENT AS MY ENEMY, WITHOUT MERCY, NO MATTER WHO IT IS...
THAT'S MY POLICY.
BUT NO MATTER WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH, YOU SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE SOME SYMPATHY ...
I DON'T NEED TO HEAR CRAP LIKE THIS FROM A BRAT LIKE YOU!

I'M TAKING A BATH AND CRASHING
Ah
I'LL JUST MAKE MYSELF AT HOME
HEY! WAIT!
WHAT KIND OF STUCK-UP ATTITUDE IS THAT!?
OH MY, THEY'RE ON QUITE OPPOSITE PATHS... AREN'T THEY?
Wait
Slurp
ISN'T HE THE ONE WHO'S ACTING LIKE A BRAT!?
munch munch
EXCUSE ME. BUT ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU'VE BEEN EATING THE WHOLE TIME...
?
BECAUSE IT'S DELICIOUS
I'll take another
munch
WELL ERR That's not the problem.
WELL, LET'S GO ON ANOTHER TRIP TOGETHER SOMETIME.
SURE, GOOD-NIGHT.


CHNK
I WONDER ....
IF NANA'S OKAY?
I'M SURE SHE'S FINE I EVEN LEFT A WEEK'S WORTH OF FOOD FOR HER.
TWITCH

IT'S HERE!
IS IT THE SAME ONE AS BEFORE!?
BLANK
SLIDE
AHH, DAMMIT, IT'S GONE AGAIN!!
THAT BASTARD... SEEMS LIKE IT'S JUST WANDERING AROUND...
DID IT SENSE ME...?
GRR...
DAMMIT...

PLE... PLEASE
PLEASE HELP US!
WE'RE BEING TARGETED BY SOME KIND OF MONSTER!
YOU'VE HEARD, HAVEN'T YOU? IT'S EVEN BEEN IN THE NEWS, THE WOMAN ATTACKED IN HER OWN HOME!
YES, THE INCIDENT WHERE THE VICTIM'S NEIGHBOR WITNESSED A "MONSTER", RIGHT?
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING?
MAYBE I SHOULD INVESTIGATE A BIT
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON?
N... NO. DO YOU?
NOT ME...
YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH? YOU DO UNDERSTAND THAT HIDING SOMETHING WILL CAUSE PROBLEMS, DON'T YOU?
RI... RIGHT! ANYWAY, PLEASE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU? WE'RE OFF TO HUNT SOME DARK DEMONS OF COURSE
LET'S GO
HUH? WHERE TO?
!?
GRRRR
SLURP

IT FI-NALLY CAME OUT.
!
BU... BUT I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE!
YOU WERE BARKING TOO MUCH...!
EVEN AFTER I UPPED THE VOLTAGE ON YOUR COLLAR, YOU WOULDN'T STOP!
THAT'S WHY I PUN-ISHED YOU BY NOT FEEDING YOU!
D WASN'T IT YOUR OWN FAULT FOR DYING!?
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO COME BACK AND HAUNT ME!?
SHUT YER TRAP!
MOVE IT!
SHIRAYUKI, KUROMINE, SURROUND THE DARK DEMON AND KEEP IT FROM ESCAPING!

I'LL TAKE IT DOWN.
WUWUSH
AFTER LOOKING INTO IT,
I FOUND OUT THAT ALL THOSE PETS WERE ABUSED BY THEIR OWNERS!
TWITCH
JERK
ARE YOU A HEARTLESS DEMON!?
SO WHAT?
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!
MAYBE I AM...
GRAB
NO!
WHAT-CHA DOING, GIEN!?
WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE ANIMALS ARE SEPARATED FROM THE DARK DEMON TO KILL IT!

GIEN, WATCH OUT!
WHA...?
SLASH
!!
SWISH
SH...
SHIT...!
POP
POP
POP
POP
TCH!
YOU...

SHUT UP!
KYOU, YOU SHOULDN'T TREAT AN INJURED GUY LIKE THAT...
GUYS WHO CAN ONLY TOSS AROUND SOME HALF-ASSED EMPATHY PISS ME OFF!
YOU TOTAL MORON!
ARE YOU SAYING IT'S FUTILE TO BE CONSIDERATE TO OTHERS?!
LISTEN UP! I'M GONNA TEACH YOU SOME-THIN'...
TUG TUG TUG
Eeew
YOU REALLY DON'T GET IT, DO YA?
Bastard!

KYOU, IS IT OKAY FOR ME TO TEND TO HIS INJURY?
WHAT-EVER!
JUST SIT TIGHT FOR A WHILE.
IT'LL BE A NEW MOON SOON, AND THE DARK ENERGY WILL GET STRON-GER...
NOW THAT YOU GET IT, DON'T GET IN MY WAY AGAIN ...
THAT WORTHLESS COMPASSION OF YOURS IS JUST GONNA CAUSE MORE DAMAGE!
NEW MOON
SO ...
WHY DO WE HAVE TO PROTECT THOSE HUMAN BAS-TARDS WHO CALL US DEMONS?
WE'RE ALL HUMANS, AREN'T WE?

KEH, I WONDER
YOU NEVER CHANGE, KYOU
.....
YOU SHOULD THINK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THOSE AROUND YOU.
NO MAN IS AN ISLAND.
BUT I DON'T WANNA PROTECT THOSE JERKS THEY'RE AFRAID OF OUR POWER AND CHASE US INTO THE MOUNTAINS
AND THEN THEY RUN TO US WHEN THEY NEED OUR HELP
...
JEEZ
SO I GET LECTURED BY YOU INSTEAD
HA HAHA
...
SNAP
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE, BUT ...
MY COMRADES IN THIS VILLAGE ARE IMPORTANT TO ME, SO I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO PROTECT THEM.
FOR ME...

SNAP SNAP
SNAP
HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY THOSE WITH POWER LIKE OURS ARE BEING PERSECUTED?
...SAY, KYOU ...
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT DARK PUPPETS?
IT'S A FORBIDDEN ART WHERE A PUPPET MASTER ENSLAVES A DARK DEMON BY SEALING IT IN A CORPSE...
THAT CHILD... SAYAOU... DON'T HATE HIM...
EVERYONE HAS DARKNESS IN THEIR HEART...
THAT'S HOW A DARK DEMON IS ABLE TO POSSESS OUR BODIES ...
THAT'S WHY...

TIME WILL STOP FOR ME UNTIL I SLAUGHTER ALL OF THE DARK DEMONS
THROB
TCH!
IT STARTS TO HURT ON EVERY NEW MOON...
THE SPELL ...
USE THE EVIL EYE ...
I GUESS I'LL GO WASH IT AWAY WITH SOME SAKE.
I SEE,
SO THAT'S WHY...

THE DARK DEMONS ARE YOUR ENEMIES
RIGHT. KYOU'S SUFFERED A LOT TOO...
munch munch
HEY! ARE YOU TELLING HIM STUFF WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!?
WELL, KYOU, I DON'T THINK YOUR FRIENDS ARE HAPPY THAT...
YOU LIVE JUST FOR REVENGE...
I-uhm' sorry
AHH!
AND THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO BE TELLING ME THAT!
JOLT
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW ...?
I KNOW I DON'T!
clench
BUT...
DON'T YOU FEEL SAD?
AFTER GOING THROUGH SO MUCH .. JUST TO STAY ALIVE?

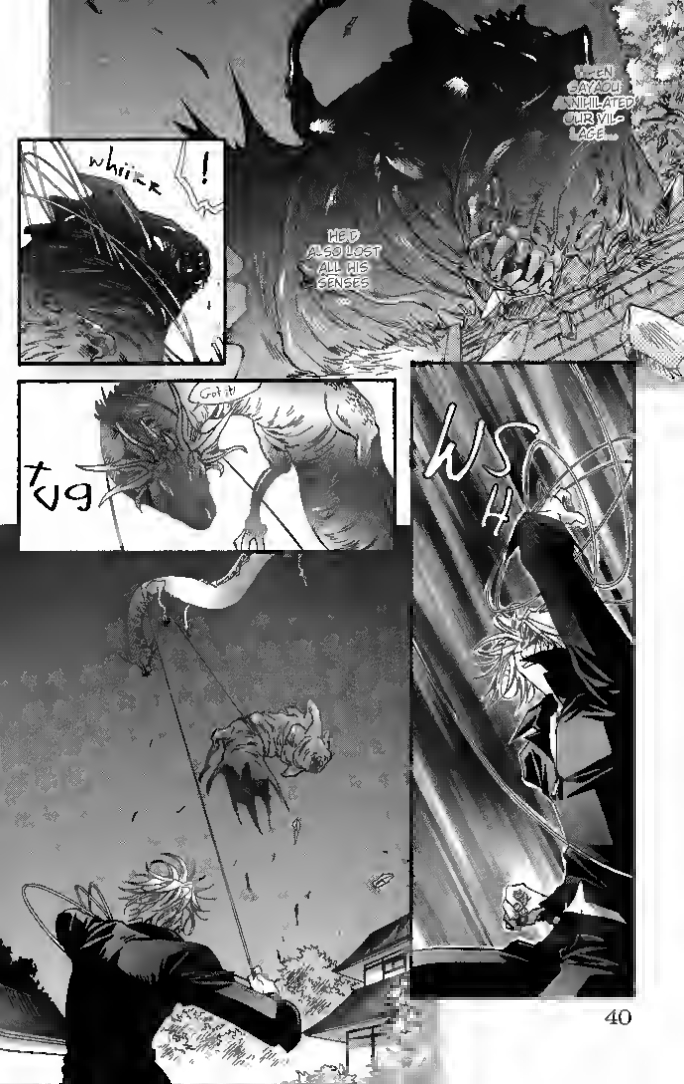
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT YOUR FRIENDS ARE HELPING YOU...
BECAUSE OF YOUR REVENGE
YOU'RE SO NAIVE!
CHOKE CHOKE CHOKE
I AM NOT!
cough!
SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS GONNA WIND UP DEAD SOONER RATHER THAN LATER
HUH?
RUSTLE
KYOU?

YOU'VE GOT GUTS
COMING ALL THIS WAY TO CHALLENGE ME.

BEFORE THE HIGH MOON..
HHR.. RR..
THE ANIMALS ARE SUFFERING.
THAT'S WHY THEY CHOSE TO COME HERE...
SHIK-YUK!, KURO-MINE,
PUT UP A BARRIER AND MAKE SURE IT CAN'T ESCAPE THIS TIME.
flicker
OKAY.

NOW I CAN TAKE MY TIME
EVERYONE! YOU'RE BEING POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON!
CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME!?
Flare
YUR ... SUCH AN IDIOT ...
RUB RUB RUB
H... HURRY ...
I'M SERIOUS THIS TIME!
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM WITH ALL MY HEART!
!
SHEESH, DO WHAT YOU WANT!
DASH
I PLAN ON IT!
WSSH

REALLY
IT'S POINTLESS NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY
ONCE SOMETHING GETS POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON...
I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO DESTROY IT.
!!
IT'S THE SAME AS BACK THEN...
THE NIGHT OF A NEW MOON


WHEN SAYAOU ANNIHILATED OUR VILLAGE...
HE'D ALSO LOST ALL HIS SENSES...
whirr
!
Got it!
tug
WSH

ASS-HOLE
SLIP
slip
FLAP
IT'S NOT OVER YET!

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY!
KYOU!
LOOK AT THE ANIMALS THAT WERE RE-LEASED!
JOLT

YOU'RE ALL GOOD KIDS
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUFFER ANYMORE
SLASH
I KNEW IT
YOU CAN'T BE NICE TO THINGS THAT'VE BEEN POSSESSED!
RUN! GIEN!
GI—

KYOU.

HEY, YOU THERE!
PUNCH
HUH !?
YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM BEFORE
out of nowhere
TAKE THIS
WHAT... WHAT IS THIS?
yoo?
IT'S A PUPPET FILLED WITH THE MEMORY OF THE DOG YOU ABUSED.
I DON... DON'T WANT THIS KINDA THING!
UH OH...
drop

YOU'RE GONNA BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE IF YOU BREAK IT BEFORE YOUR PET'S MEMORY'S FADED
The puppet
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!?
TAKE IT BACK!
link
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, UH OH!?
THAT'S USE-LESS
WA AH!
GLATTER
GLATTER
I'VE PUT YOUR HAIR INSIDE THE PUPPET,
SO IT'LL STICK TO YOU AND NEVER LEAVE
MAKE SURE YOU TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT 'TILL THE MEMORY IS GONE
sulk sulk
AH...

IS THAT PUPPET REALLY FILLED WITH THE PET'S MEMORY?
Nah,
I WAS LYING!
I JUST PUT A SPELL ON THE GUY
I REALLY DID PUT HIS HAIR IN THE PUPPET, THOUGH
I SEE. WELL, IF YOU CAN FEEL SORRY FOR THE ANIMALS, I GUESS YOU AREN'T TOTALLY HEARTLESS.
YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.
ANYWAY
WHAT'S UP WITH THOSE CLOTHES?
YOU GOIN' ON A PILGRIMAGE OR WHAT?
OH, COME ON!
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THIS'S MY TRAVEL GEAR! I'LL BE COMING ALONG WITH YOU GUYS
Te
He

BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE PETS,
IT'S BECOME CLEAR TO ME THAT IT'S MY DESTINY TO INSTRUCT YOU ON THE MEANING OF LIFE.
Say what?
WAIT! IT WAS ACTUALLY A REVELATION FROM BUDDHA!
TA DA
OH?
SWSS
WHA?

KEH, STUPID
KYOU... THIS IS CHI..P-ISH...
ARG!
SHOCK
FWO
OSH
PLEASE WAAAA-IIITTTT!
TO HAVE THOUGHTS
OF THAT IDIOT AS ONE OF OUR COMRADES, EVEN A LITTLE.
I'LL KEEP THAT A SECRET.
Chapter One / End

2

Yami ni Naku Oni

Pikopepper

Kalendel

Yohina

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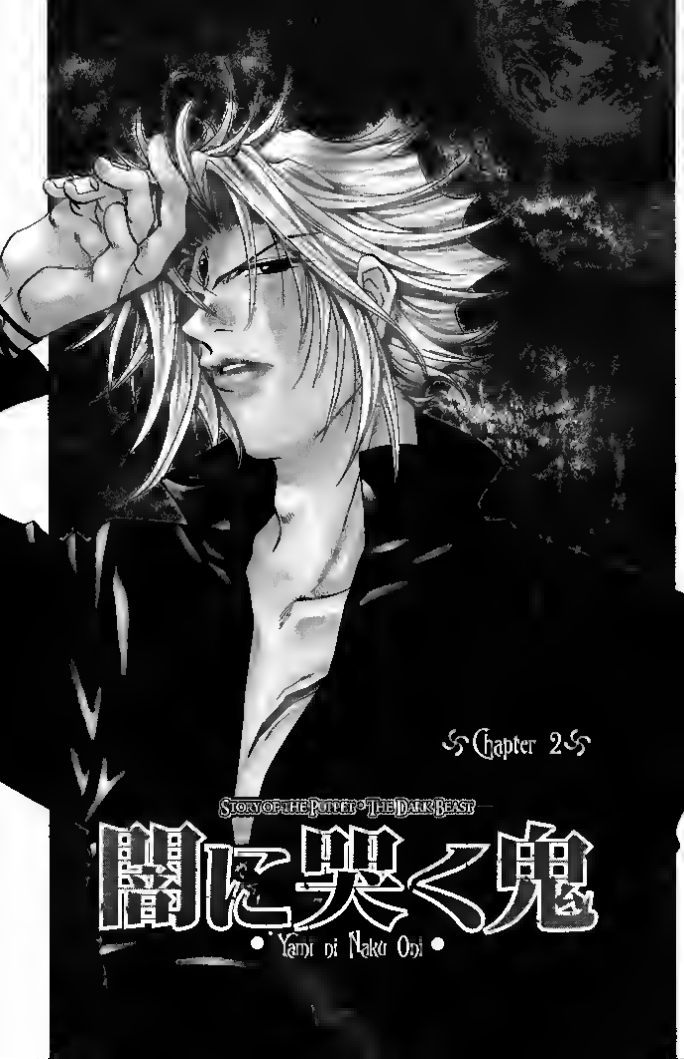

Chapter 2
Story of the Puppet & the Dark Beast
闇に哭く鬼
Yami ni Naku Oni

JUST LIKE A DOLL
OKAY, AOI, SMILE~!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
THE "ANGELIC GIRL" THAT ADULTS EXPECT OF ME
A GIRL WHO LOVES CAKES AND STUFFED ANIMALS
IT'S A PERSONA THAT I ASSUME, ONE THAT'S TOTALLY OPPOSITE OF THE REAL ME

THAT'S BECAUSE IT WILL MAKE MOM HAPPY
SHE'S JUST SUCKING UP TO THE ADULTS.
NOT ONLY DOES EVERYONE IN CLASS IGNORE ME,
BUT THEY ALSO SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT ME BEHIND MY BACK
BUT SO LONG AS I ACT LIKE A DOLL, MOM WILL BE HAPPY
AOI, IT'S TIME FOR BED
OKAY!
GOOD NIGHT, MOM.
TAK!
MOTO

Click
Grab
BAM
THAT'S SO STUPID!

RUSTLE
I'M LYING LIKE THIS ALL THE TIME!
I REALLY ...
HATE DOING IT!!
RIP
RIP
SISH
SISH
DO YOU HATE DOLLS?
WH... WHO'S THERE!?

DO YOU...
HATE DOLLS?
I DO.
WHY?
BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING BUT FLUFF INSIDE OF THEM.
...BUT ISN'T THAT GREAT?
TIA
fwssh
SLURP
SLURP

BECAUSE YOU CAN CONTROL THEM AS YOU WISH ...
WHO ARE THE DOLLS
RATHER, IT IS THOSE AROUND YOU RESPONDING TO YOUR EVERY WHIM...
CLUTTER
CLUTTER
CLUTTER
IT IS NOT YOU WHO ARE ACTING LIKE A DOLL...
DON'T YOU THINK SO?
YOU ARE INDEED THE ONE IN CONTROL,
Thud
Thud
Thud
Thud

!
DAM-MIT!
IT'S A DEAD END!
SHIT
Cough
I WON'T GIVE UP SO EASILY.
!
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU AL-READY?
I WON'T LET A SINGLE ONE OF YOU DARK DEMONS ESCAPE
whoosh
SHIRA-YUKI!
KURO-MINE!

FOOM
GO!
WH
ACK
THUMP
!?
Thwack
Thwack
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU?

IT'S NO USE TRYING TO RUN

HOW THE HELL WOULD I KNOW?
JUST TOSS HIM OVER THERE, I GUESS
That way is good
KYOU, WHAT SHALL I DO WITH HIM?
I FOUND YOU, KYOU!
HUFF PUFF HUFF PUFF HUFF PUFF HUFF
EVEN THOUGH I ALREADY KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU ARE,
YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR IN YOUR LACK OF CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS!
NOW I KNOW I'M ABSOLUTELY DESTINED TO INSTRUCT YOU ON THE MEANING OF LIFE!
!!
GOOD WORK FINDING US, GIEN
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
TO FIND SOMEONE TRYING TO DESTORY ALL THE DARK DEMONS,
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO FOLLOW THE DARK DEMONS' AURA
BESIDES, FINDING DARK DEMON AURAS IS MY SPECIALTY.
THAT'S HOW I WAS ABLE TO LOCATE YOU
DRAG

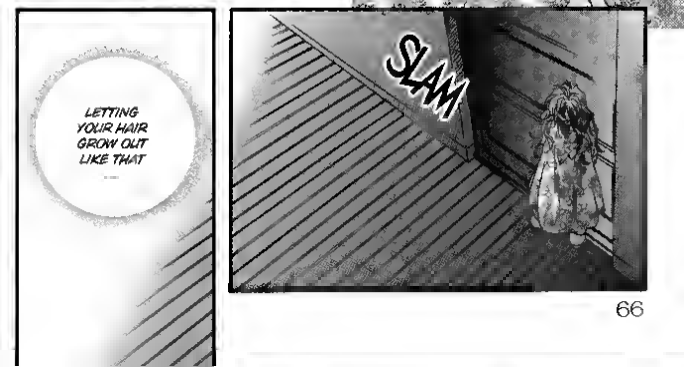
YEAH, WHATEVER. IT'S FOR YOU
FWUP
IN ANY CASE, AS THE EXORCIST OF ONTOKU TEMPLE,
IT'S MY DUTY TO EXORCISE THE DARK DEMONS
Yup, that's me.
HUH?
YOU SHOULD SET YOURSELF UP AS AN EXAMPLE IF YOU WANNA INSTRUCT OTHERS ON THE MEANING OF LIFE, RIGHT?
NO PRO-BLEM. LEAVE IT TO ME!!
THERE'S THE POLICE STATION
HEH, IDIOT.
DASH
DASH
JOLT
!?
ALL RIGHT THEN. WANNA GO GRAB A BITE?
Thud
Thud
Thud
HEY, WAIT!!

I SAID WAAAIIIT!!
dash
NO WAY
KYOU!?
WHAT'S WRONG?
!
THROB
IT CAN'T BE
ARE YOU OKAY!?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE

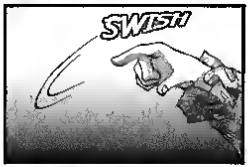
THERE'S JUST NO WAY!!

MAMA,
DO YOU LIKE THAT PICTURE?
YES, I DO
YOU WERE SO ADORABLE IN IT
REALLY
MAMA, DO YOU
CLUNK
WHAT IS IT?

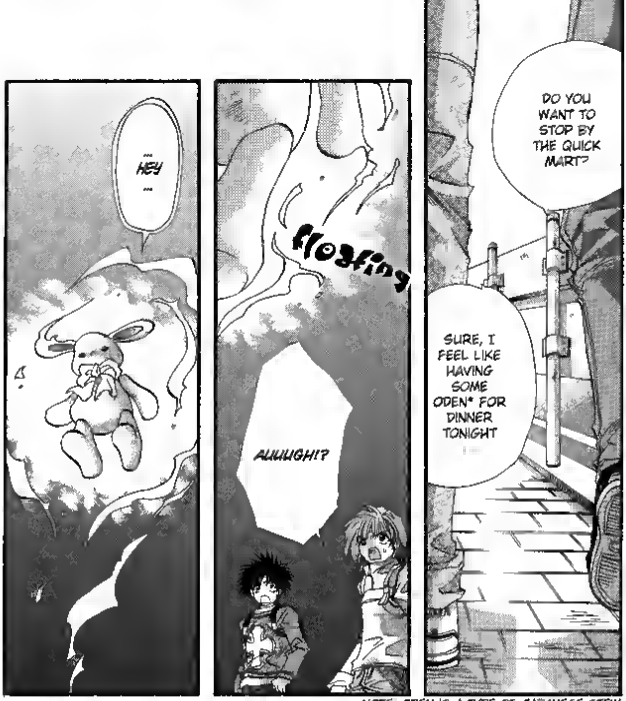
AOI-CHAN, I MEANT TO ASK YOU...
LIMM...
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE THAT CLOTHING STYLE...?
GOOD NIGHT.
...NOTHING


LETTING YOUR HAIR GROW OUT LIKE THAT...
SLAM

GRAB
ARE YOU JUST TRYING TO DRESS YOURSELF LIKE A PRINCESS?
YOUR HAIR IS SO PRETTY.
I'VE BEEN TOLD THAT DOING THIS SUITED ME.
DO YOU KNOW? IT'S MAMA'S DREAM TO BRAID YOUR HAIR LIKE THIS
NOTE: HER DAD IS DEAD
BLURP
YOUR PAPA USED TO SAY THAT A LOT, TOO.
BANG


SWISH

BYE! SEE YOU TOMORROW
OKAY



NOTE: ODEN IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE STEW

BAD MOOD
COME ON, KYOU,
IF YOU KEEP SULKING YOU'RE GOING TO SPOIL THIS DELICIOUS FOOD THAT WE DON'T GET TO EAT OFTEN
BUMP
STUFF IT!
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU NOT TO FOLLOW US?
HURRY UP, FINISH YOUR FOOD, AND GO HOME ALREADY
SULK
I DON'T WANT TO.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.
JUST WHY EXACTLY DO YOU WANT ME NOT TO TAG ALONG SO BAD?
point
YOU'RE A REASON YOURSELF!
ANYTHING ELSE?

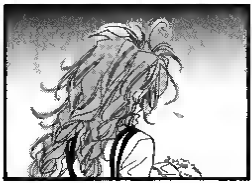
HUH? OH, I HEARD SHE'S PRETTY POPULAR LATELY.
REAL-LY?
THE AURA I FELT EARLIER ...
IT DEFINITELY BELONGED TO THAT BASTARD ...
BUT ..
ERR, SAY, DON'T YOU THINK THE GIRL IN THAT POSTER IS CUTE?
HUH? WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
YOU DON'T KNOW?
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT THE ELEMENTARY KIDS?

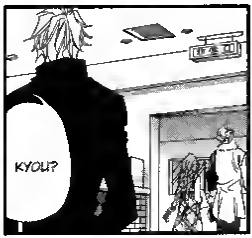
I HEARD SOME KIDS WERE ATTACKED BY A STUFFED ANIMAL.
REALLY?
FROM WHAT I HEARD, THEY WERE GOING HOME AFTER CRAM SCHOOL AND ALL OF A SUDDEN A STUFFED ANIMAL APPEARED IN FRONT OF THEM.
AND THEN THE STUFFED ANIMAL ASKED THEM IF THEY THOUGHT IT WAS CUTE AND IF THEY LIKED IT.
I SEE ... SO HER NAME IS AOI?
SHE LOOKS JUST LIKE A DOLL
The girl in the poster
SHE'S YOUR TYPE?
ME TOO
... THESE GUYS ...
THE KIDS WERE FREAKED OUT, AND WHEN THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT,
IT TURNED INTO A MONSTER AND ATTACKED THEM.
NO WAY ...
.....
THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE IN HER EYES.
SHE SURE SEEMS THAT MUCH LIKE A DOLL
JUST LIKE A DOLL WITHOUT A SOUL
THUMP

WOW! IT'S AOI-CHAN! !
NO WAY!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHE IS SOOOOO CUTE!
ISN'T SHE?
AH, SHE'S THE REAL McCOY! ADORABLE!

CLUNK
JUST A SEC!
HAVE YOU MET...
SAYAOU!?
WHAT'S —
WITH THIS MAN?
HE IGNORES MY IDENTITY, AND —
WHO IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
HE DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE ME
JUST WHAT IS HE TRYING TO SAY?
CHILL
!?

SHUT UP...
HEY, YOU.
DON'T OVERDO IT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A KID.
.....
Os,
WHAT'S WRONG, AOI-CHAN?
OH, NOTHING.
Smile
OKAY, I'VE ALREADY PAID, SO LET'S GO HOME




KYOU?

KUROMINE, SHIROYUKI, LET'S GO
HUH? WHERE?
TO HUNT SOME DEMONS

TAKI
MOTO
GEEZ
PISSED OFF
HOWEVER, I DID FEEL A DEMONIC AURA COMING FROM HER..
HOW CAN YOU SUSPECT A CUTE GIRL LIKE THAT? YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
Wooaaah
WHY DO WE HAVE TO STAKE OUT AOI-CHAN'S HOUSE!?
GIEN,
I TOLD YOU TO GO HOME!!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THE DARK DEMONS ARE MY PREY!
YUR THE IDIOT!!
...AND ALSO ...
DEAD...
...WHO IS SAYAOI?

HE SEEMS TO BE THE CAUSE OF YOUR FRUSTRATION.
IS HE ALSO THE REASON YOU WANT ME TO GO HOME?
IF THAT'S WHY, PLEASE GIVE ME A REASON—
A REAL REASON.
I'M NOT ONE OF YOUR PUPPETS.
I LIVE MY LIFE BY MY OWN FREE WILL.
I'M NOT GOING TO FOLLOW YOUR ORDERS WITHOUT A GOOD EXPLANATION.
...
SAYAOU IS...

...
THE BASTARD WHO DESTROYED THE PUPPET MASTERS' VILLAGE.
AT FIRST SAYAOU WAS ONE OF US PUPPET MASTERS
HE WAS ACTUALLY THE ONE WHO TOOK ME IN AND LET ME STAY IN THE VILLAGE
HE BROKE THE TABOO OF USING A DARK PUPPET*
NOTE: CREATING A PUPPET BY SEALING A DARK DEMON INTO A CORPSE.

AND WE WENT FISHING TOGETHER ALL THE TIME
HE AND I NATURALLY GOT ALONG THE BEST IN THE WHOLE VILLAGE
SINCE OUR AGES WERE JUST A YEAR APART,
WELL, KYOU,
HAVE YOU WONDERED ABOUT WHY THOSE WITH POWERS LIKE OURS ARE BEING PERSECUTED?
EVEN SO...
THAT BASTARD

...ANYONE...
...ANYONE ALIVE?
IS ANY-ONE...?
SAYAOU!!
...ANY-ONE...?
SHIT!
...WHERE...
...WHERE...DID YOU GO?
SINCE I DIDN'T FIND HIS REMAINS, I DON'T THINK HE DIED BACK THEN.
BUT THAT HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO.

I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT BASTARD IS STILL ALIVE
EVEN IF HE IS HE WOULD BE LIKE ME
ONE OF THE LIVING DEAD
NO...
IT WASN'T
THE SAME AURA I ALWAYS FELT WHEN WE WERE FISHING TOGETHER.
KYOU ...
BUT I'M PRETTY SURE THE AURA I FELT FROM THAT AOI KID WAS SAYAOU'S
IT WAS THAT SAME EVIL AURA I SENSED WHEN THE PUPPET MASTERS VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED ON THAT NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON
SQUEEZE...
HOWEVER,
IF IT'S REALLY SAYAOU ...

WHAT'S WRONG, AOI?
ARE YOU FEELING SICK OR SOMETHING?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE TODAY.
THEN THERE'S SOMETHING I HAVE TO ASK HIM...
I TOLD HER, "EVERYTHING IS FINE."
I EVEN FORCED A SMILE TO SMOOTH IT OUT..
DON'T OVERDO IT JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A KID.
WH... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT!?

ANNOYING .
ANNOYING ..
EVERYONE AND EVERYTHING IS ANNOYING
JUST LIKE A DOLL WITHOUT A SOUL.
ANNOYING
AOI-CHAN?
ALL OF THEM!!

SFX: BOOM
!!
KUROMINE, SHIRAYUKI, PUT UP THE BARRIER!!
OKAY!
WAIT FOR ME!!
YOU ...
ROAR !

AOI-CHAN, THAT'S DANGEROUS!
PLEASE GET BACK OVER HERE!
HEY... IT'S NOT SAFE TO GO IN THERE!!

YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ME AT ALL!!
AL-WAYS LYING
ALL YOU WANT IS A PRETTY, DRESSED-UP DOLL!!
...IT'S NOTHING BUT A BIG LIE...
SWOOSH
...GET BACK, GIEN
YES, I AM
W WAIT . YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE DOWN AOI-CHAN WITH THE DARK DEMON, ARE YOU?

IT'S HOPELESS ONCE YOU'RE POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON.
USELESS SYMPATHY IS JUST GOING TO BRING NOTHING BUT MISERY
LIKE THAT FATEFUL NIGHT...
OUR FRIENDS BELIEVED SAYAOU COULD STILL BE SAVED SO THEY DIDN'T TRY TO KILL HIM.
AND THAT BASTARD TURNED INTO OUR ENEMY AND MURDERED EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE.
BUT ...
AREN'T THERE CASES OF THOSE BEING POSSESSED WHO WERE SAVED!?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I AIN'T HERE TO HELP PEOPLE.
I'M A DEMON HUNTER.
DON'T GET IN MY WAY.

DASH
EH!?
PLEASE STOP!!
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER!!
AOI-CHAN!!
YOU IDIOT!
GET LOST! YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
HEEELP ...
NO!!
DON'T HURT MAMA!!

STOP!!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP!
LEAVE MAMA ALONE!!
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK THE DARK DEMON WOULD LISTEN TO YOU, DID YOU!?
WHY NOT!?
IT'S BEEN FOLLOW-ING MY ORDERS SO FAR ...
GL
UB
...EEEEK!
NOOOOOOOO!!!
SAY, KYOU, DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ... ABOUT THE DARK PUPPET?

HURRY!
NOW!!
SLASH
UWAH!
TO ENSLAVE A DARK DEMON BY SEALING IT IN A CORPSE!
A FORBIDDEN ART...
WHY DID YOU KILL OUR FRIENDS?

THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT.
WHY DID YOU TURN TO THE DARK SIDE?
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE.
BUT I DON'T NEED TO ANYMORE.
YOU WEREN'T SIMPLY POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CHOSE TO BECOME A DARK PUPPET MASTER.

SHOCK
IF YOU CHOSE TO SIDE WITH THE DARK DEMONS...
I WILL HAVE TO HUNT YOU DOWN AS WELL, SAYIOU.

Walk
Walk
Walk

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU FOLLOWING HIS FOR?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO SHY, YOU KNOW.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
AH, KYOU!!
...SOMEHOW GIEN BECOMES STRONGER THE MORE HE GETS BEATEN UP, YEAH?

STOP BABBLING NONSENSE!
WELL, YOU SEE, YOU SAVED ME EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT WOUND...?
A... AOI-CHAN!?
HELLO! HOW'S EVERYBODY?
HEY HEY
I WON TOO
I HAD A FIGHT WITH A BOY WHO BAD-MOUTHED ME. SO I'M HERE TO BRAG
Sigh~~~
Why're you telling this ?
I can't see clearly
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I WAS AFRAID TO FIND THE REAL ME
I THOUGHT MAMA DIDN'T LOVE ME...
BUT I LEARNT THAT NO MATTER WHAT, MAMA WILL STILL LOVE ME
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, KYOU,
THAT I WAS ABLE TO TELL MAMA HOW I FELT

FOOL
WHAT!?
TUMBLING
..GIEN JUST DOESN'T LEARN DOES HE?
Kwaaah
YOU ARE POPULAR, AREN'T YOU?
..UM
OH NO
SO I ENDED UP HELPING OTHERS WITHOUT KNOWING IT...
DEFEATED
AND I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH YOU, KYOU.
BUT,
EVEN SO
I'LL PROBABLY LOSE MYSELF ONCE IN A WHILE
GRAB
.....
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS I'M DETERMINED

Yami ni Naku Oni
Pikopepper
Kalendel
Yohina
Kalendel
Storm in Heaven
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Chapter 3
STORY OF THE PUPPET~THE DARK BEAST
闇に哭く鬼
Crying Demon in Darkness

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY MEANT.

HOWEVER,

IT WAS INTERESTING

TO SEE THE LIVES THAT WERE SIMPLY CRUSHED UNDER MY FINGERS

MORE...
MORE...
AND MORE...
LET ME SEE MORE...!!
...YES!

IT'S JUST AS WELL TO BUILD A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES.
...HE'S SO SERIOUS, ISN'T HE?
I HEARD HIS COLLEGE PLAN WAS TO ENTER THE MEDICAL FIELD, RIGHT?
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S VERY SMART.
I THINK HE GOT ONE OF THE TOP SCORES IN THE NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS AS WELL.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF OUR INTELLIGENCE GAP WASN'T SO BIG...
CHUCKLE
TO LIVE IS... ONLY TO STAND UPON THE CORPSES OF OTHERS...

PHANTOM KILLER STRIKES
THE PHANTOM KILLING IS HAPPENING AROUND HERE AGAIN...
I AM AFRAID IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE EVIL AURA...
I FELT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD AFTER ALL.
I'M CERTAIN KYOU IS GOING TO FOLLOW THIS AURA AND SHOW UP HERE TO HUNT FOR THE DARK DEMON SOON
I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET HIM IF I JUST WAIT HERE...
OH, GIEN, YOU ARE UP THIS EARLY?

Oh!
GOOD MORNING, UNCLE
YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE TO SWEEP UP THE GARDEN FOR US.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST TAKE A RELAXING BREAK?
I'M AFRAID SO...
AS THE ONTOKU TEMPLE'S HEAD PRIEST, I SUPPOSE YOU CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY FROM YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A DARK DEMON EXORCIST?
BESIDES, THE PHANTOM KILLINGS ARE ALSO OCCURRING NEARBY—
...SO IT'S THE WORK OF A DARK DEMON, ISN'T IT?
IN THIS AREA—
IT IS MY PLEASURE. I'M SORRY TO VISIT ALL OF A SUDDEN DURING MY PILGRIMAGE,
SO PLEASE AT LEAST LET ME DO THIS.
Here's the morning paper.

RIGHT
DARK DEMONS ARE EVIL ENTITIES THAT FEED OFF OF NEGATIVE EMOTIONS
IT MAY BE THE CASE THAT THEY ARE DRAWN OUT BY A PERSON'S FEELINGS,
BUT I'M NOT SURE IF THOSE BEING POSSESSED ARE TRULY CONTROLLED BY THE DEMONS
GIEN
Pat
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DO MUCH,
BUT I WOULD LIKE TO HELP AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT'S YOUR DUTY TO DEAL WITH THE DARK DEMONS, PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY, OKAY?
I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WISHED FOR THAT AS WELL
AND YOU WERE MY PRECIOUS NEPHEW EVEN BEFORE YOU BECAME AN EXORCIST.
DEAR! GIEN! BREAKFAST IS READY.

Rem picked Reshiram!
YOU'RE GOING TO MISS BREAKFAST IF YOU GUYS DON'T HURRY UP!
YES, MY DEAR.
LET'S GO.
WE'LL REALLY BE STARVED IF YOUR AUNTY GETS MAD
OKAY.
OH, NO, THE PHANTOM KILLINGS AGAIN?
IT SEEMS SO.
THIS PHANTOM KILLER REALLY MAKES ME SICK.
HASN'T HE BEEN TARGETING ONLY VULNERABLE PEOPLE LIKE CHILDREN AND WOMEN?
I BET HE'S EITHER AN IDIOT WHO HAS ZERO CONFIDENCE OR HE'S PLAIN STUPID.

WHAT HE DID'S DEFINITELY UNFORGIVABLE
THAT'S IT!
MAYBE I'LL START A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BY PATROLLING AROUND AT NIGHT
GIEN
ANYONE CAN SIT AROUND AND WAIT FOR KYOU BUT
IT'LL BE FINE
LATELY THE WEATHER HAS BEEN CLEAR WITH BRIGHT NIGHTS, SO THE DARK ENERGY ISN'T AS STRONG AS USUAL
BESIDES, I'M JUST A SMALL-TIME EXORCIST, SO IT'S OKAY IF I TAKE SOME RISK.
I DON'T REALLY MEAN TO PUT MYSELF IN DANGER
PLEASE DON'T DO ANYTHING HASTY, OKAY?
I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WOULD HAVE WISHED FOR THAT AS WELL

SAYAOU AND I GOT ALONG BEST IN THE VILLAGE...
BUT THAT BASTARD CREATED A DARK PUPPET,
AND USED IT TO DE-STROY OUR VILLAGE
AT FIRST, MY GOAL WAS TO INSTRUCT KYOU ON THE MEANING OF LIFE
SINCE HE LACKS SYMPATHY FOR OTHERS
I'M SORRY, UNCLE
To make you worry
BUT KYOU IS PRETTY MUCH A COMPLETE STRANGER
AND KYOU DOESN'T LET ANYONE GET CLOSE AND DEPEND ON HIM EITHER

I CAN VERY WELL UNDER-STAND THE HATE TOWARDS DARK DEMONS.
SINCE MY PAR-ENTS WERE ALSO KILLED BY A DARK DEMON !!
HOWEVER, IF HE LETS HIS HATRED CONSUME HIM...
I'M AFRAID KYOU WILL EVENTUALLY BE POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON.

SHOCK
DASH
THIS AURA IS .. FROM A DARK DEMON!?
KYOU!!

UHO...
THAT MAN IS
SAYAOU?!
SHIRA-YUKI, KURO-MINE,
FOOM
GO!!

SAYAOU!!
...YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL...

...NOT TO BE OVERCOME BY YOUR HATRED...
...BECAUSE I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
BDMP
SLASH
!!
KYOU...
THAT ASS-HOLE ... IS TOYING WITH ME...

GOING THROUGH ALL THAT CHARADE TO SHOW ME YOUR FACE...
AIN'T YOU JUST ASKING ME TO CHASE YOU!?
GLUB
KYOU ...
KYOU, IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT MAY BE PRUDENT TO STAY PUT FOR A WHILE AND SEE WHAT THE ENEMY'S TRUE INTENTIONS ARE, RIGHT?
MY UNCLE'S TEMPLE IS RIGHT AROUND HERE.
TO TOP IT OFF, THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PHANTOM KILLINGS IN THIS AREA.
SO MAYBE IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT KID JUST NOW...
HELL, LIKE I CARE.
WELL, DON'T YOU THINK SAYAOU MAY BE LENDING HIM A HAND?

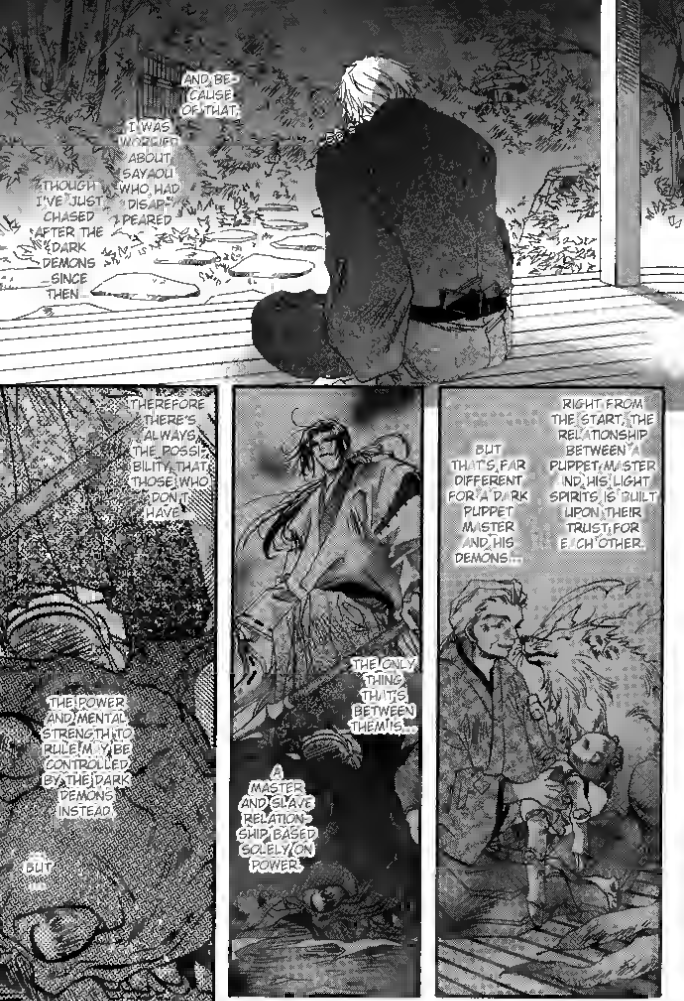
I'M SORRY, UNCLE. I BROUGHT MY FRIENDS HERE WITHOUT ASKING FIRST
NO, NO, I AM GLAD TO HAVE YOUR FRIENDS OVER.
SMILE
SMILE
YOU MUST BE TIRED FROM YOUR TRIP
HOW ABOUT TAKING A BATH?
SMILE
SMILE
OR PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE DINNER BEFORE THAT?
PLEASE HELP YOURSELF, OKAY?
A BATH
LET ME SHOW YOU THERE
THAT'S OKAY, JUST TELL ME WHERE IT IS
COME ON, THIS WAY PLEASE

OH, WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOME SAKE, TOO?
JUST GO ALREADY!!
WELL, THEN.
ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR BATH, PLEASE JOIN US FOR DINNER.
I'M LEAVING YOU SOME CLOTHES HERE
PLEASE PUT YOUR LAUNDRY IN THIS BASKET
I SAID "OKAY" ALREADY!
...DAMN!
WHY'M I ALWAYS SURROUNDED BY ALL THESE BUSY-BODIES WHO LOVE TO TAKE CARE OF OTHERS'!?
YOU ALWAYS OUTDO YOURSELF, DON'T YOU, KYOU?

MAKE SURE YOU WASH YOUR HEAD, TOO, OKAY?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOING DIE IF YOU DON'T, YOU KNOW!
LET'S PLAY.
LET'S PLAY, KYOU!
I DON'T LIKE MEDDLESOME PEOPLE.
THOSE I COULDN'T PROTECT...
THEY REMIND ME OF THEM.
THE MEMORY OF MY FRIENDS AT THE VILLAGE...

THROB
...UGH...
AND THEN...
...THAT ALSO BROUGHT UP MY MEMORY OF THAT BASTARD...
SAY, SAYAKU, DO YOU KNOW WHAT SATORI MEANS?
.....WHY DO YOU ASK?
BECAUSE THE VILLAGE HEAD BROUGHT IT UP.
HE SAID YOU HAVE THE POWER OF SATORI.
SATORI REFERS TO THE ABILITY TO READ ANOTHER PERSON'S MIND
Scratch
IT'S THE POWER OF A MONSTER.

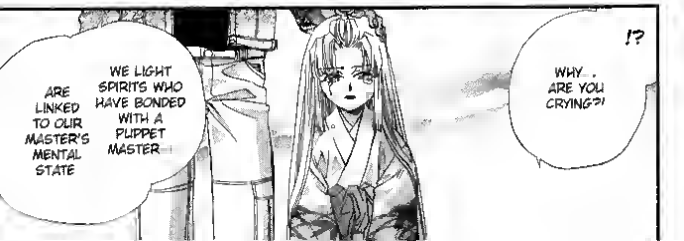
WOW! THAT'S AWESOME
YOU
AREN'T DISGUSTED OF ME?
WHY SHOULD I BE?
YOU'RE YOU, RIGHT?
IT'S SO LIKE YOU TO SAY THAT...
BECAUSE SAYAOU HAD ALWAYS BEEN KINDER...
AND MORE MATURE THAN I WAS...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
DURING THAT NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON,
WHEN HE USED HIS DARK PUPPET TO DESTROY OUR VILLAGE...
I THOUGHT BECAUSE WE ALL HAD DARKNESS IN OUR HEARTS
I BELIEVED SAYAOU WAS JUST BEING POSSESSED BY A DARK DEMON


AND, BECAUSE OF THAT,
I WAS WORRIED ABOUT SAYAOU, WHO HAD DISAPPEARED
THOUGH I'VE JUST CHASED AFTER THE DARK DEMONS SINCE THEN
THEREFORE THERE'S ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THOSE WHO DON'T HAVE
THE POWER AND MENTAL STRENGTH TO RULE 'EM, MAY BE CONTROLLED BY THE DARK DEMONS INSTEAD.
BUT...
A MASTER AND SLAVE RELATIONSHIP, BASED SOLELY ON POWER.
THE ONLY THING THAT IS BETWEEN THEM IS...
BUT THAT'S FAR DIFFERENT FOR A DARK PUPPET MASTER AND HIS DEMONS...
RIGHT FROM THE START, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A PUPPET MASTER AND HIS LIGHT SPIRITS IS BUILT UPON THEIR TRUST FOR EACH OTHER.

EVEN SO
I...I WANTED TO HAVE FAITH IN YOU.
NEVERTHELESS, THAT BASTARD
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU
HE WAS USING A DARK PUPPET AFTER ALL.
THOSE EYES I SAW THEY WERE NOT OF SOMEONE WHO WAS POSSESSED
THEY BELONGED TO SAYAOU HIMSELF
GRAB
THE SAYAOU WHO WAS ONCE MY FRIEND
DIED ON THAT NIGHT OF THE NEW MOON

THE ONE WHO APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME TONIGHT...
WAS THE MAN WHO TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING FROM ME!
ALL MY COMRADES IN THE VILLAGE, MY FRIENDS
AND MY LIFE AS A HUMAN BEING!

GIEN.


WE LIGHT SPIRITS WHO HAVE BONDED WITH A PUPPET MASTER
ARE LINKED TO OUR MASTER'S MENTAL STATE
!?
WHY... ARE YOU CRYING?!

WITHOUT EVEN THINKING OR KNOWING WHAT IT'S ABOUT,
OUR MASTER'S EMOTIONS FLOOD OUR MINDS
PLEASE GO TO KYOU AND BE BY HIS SIDE.
KYOU IS PRETTY STUBBORN, SO PLEASE TALK TO HIM.
CREAK
KYOU

... YOU GUYS HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO, DO YA?
ALWAYS STICKING YOUR NOSE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS
YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME COMPANY, THOUGH
SO HE'S SAYING, "DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE", HUH?
HE JUST HAS TO PLAY STRONG NO MATTER WHAT!
REALLY, ONCE WE GOT HERE I GOT ALL TIRED
I WONDER IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF THE DARK DEMON QUICKLY
POW
KEH, DON'T SAY CHEEKY STUFF, YOU BRAT!
OW!!
BESIDES, THE NEW MOON IS GETTING CLOSER AGAIN.
BUT

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN?
WELL...TO GET TO THE DARK DEMON WHO'S POSSESSED THE PHANTOM KILLER,
I'LL HAVE SHIRAYUKI ACT AS BAIT AND LURE HIM OUT.
NO WAY!
IN ANY CASE, YOU'RE PLANNING TO KILL BOTH THE DARK DEMON AND THE PHANTOM KILLER, RIGHT!?
OF COURSE
I SAID "NO WAY"!!
WHAT? YA GOT ANY OTHER IDEA?
I WILL BE THE BAIT.
WHA ...
ANYWAY, IF YOU USE SHIRAYUKI AND TRY TO AMBUSH THE DARK DEMON,
DON'T YOU THINK SAYAOU IS GOING TO SEE RIGHT THROUGH IT?
... DAMN!
YUR GOING TO GET IN MY WAY!

BUT YOU DON'T INTEND TO CAPTURE HIM, DO YOU?
IN THAT CASE, THERE'S A BETTER CHANCE FOR HIM TO COME OUT IF WE'RE DISCOVERED!
YOU KNOW THAT BASTARD IS JUST BEGGING FOR ME TO GO AFTER HIM!
THAT MEANS HE CAN'T KNOW YOU'RE ONTO HIM
IN ORDER TO CATPURE SAYAOU, YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM TO LET HIS GUARD DOWN
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
WELL, THEN YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SURPASS SAYAOU!
GROWL
THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM, WILL WE?
...WHO SAID WE WERE GOING TO TALK?

SO, KYOU,
DO YOU KNOW A TECHNIQUE TO MAKE YOURSELF INVISIBLE?
HUH?
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM TO POSSESS THE POWER AS A DARK DEMON EXORCIST,
IT ALSO MEANS I HAVE THE POWER TO DRAW OUT SUCH ENTITIES
TO MAKE YOUR PRESENCE UNDETECTABLE
WITH THAT YOU CAN AMBUSH THE PHANTOM KILLLER.
I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!
ASIDE FROM THAT, DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'LL WORK HAVING YOU POSE AS BAIT?
THAT'S WHY I ALWAYS PUT ON THESE GLASSES, WHICH I INHERITED FROM MY GRANDFATHER AS A CHARM
AND I USUALLY CARRY AROUND THE SWORD I USE TO HUNT THE DARK DEMONS. BUT I'LL LEAVE THEM HERE WHEN I OFFER MYSELF UP AS BAIT.
... YOU IDIOT ...
DO YOU REALLY KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

CAN YOU EVEN COMPREHEND THAT IN ORDER TO HIDE MY PRESENCE, I'LL HAVE TO COMPLETELY CUT OFF ALL MY EMOTIONS?!
I KNOW THAT!
THAT MEANS EVEN IF YOU'RE ATTACKED RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME AND YOU START CRYING AND SCREAMING,
I ABSOLUTELY WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP YOU UNTIL SAYAOU SHOWS UP, GOT IT!?
SNIFF
I'M SO NOT GOING TO CRY!!
KEH, I WONDER.
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
I'M SAYING WHEN THE TIME COMES,
YOU'RE GONNA CRY AND I AIN'T USING MY PUPPETS TO SAVE YOU!!
I SAID I WASN'T GOING TO CRY!!
THEY'RE ON THE SAME LEVEL.
MY MY .
HA HA
WHO'D YOU SAY WAS ON THE SAME LEVEL, HUH?
RUB
RUB
THEY'RE SUCH SILLY KIDS, AREN'T THEY?
YUP YUP

WHO'RE YA CALLING "SILLY"?
I THINK SHE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU
SORRY, BUT I'M WAY OLDER THAN THAT CHICK THERE
That Chick
HM, THAT'S WRONG
YOU CAN'T REALLY DETERMINE IF SOMEONE'S A "CHILD" OR AN "ADULT" JUST BY HIS AGE
MY TIME HAS STOPPED UNTIL I KILL THE LAST DARK DEMON
COME TO THINK OF IT, KYOU HAS PLACED A CURSE ON HIMSELF
ON THAT NIGHT WHEN HIS VILLAGE WAS DESTROYED
IN THAT CASE
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KYOU WHEN HIS WISH HAS COME TRUE?
PLEASE LEAD THE DARK DEMON OVER HERE IF YOU'RE GOING TO LURE IT OUT
IN DOING SO YOU CAN AVOID HARMING ANY BYSTANDERS WHO MIGHT GET IN THE WAY.

WHA ...?
I WOULD LIKE TO LEND MY ASSISTANCE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE
WELL, THEN, HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP
YOU'RE NOT GETTING ANY BREAKFAST IF YOU SLEEP IN, OKAY?
WHAT?
IS THE REASON KYOU'S HUNTING THE DARK DEMONS SO THAT HE CAN END HIS LIFE?
DAMN ...
WHY'S IT THAT NO ONE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND HOW DANGEROUS THIS IS GOING TO GET?
KYOU!
HMM ...
NOTHING ...
I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO ASK HIM.
WEIRDO.
I'M AFRAID TO HEAR KYOU'S ANSWER...

IT'S GOTTEN CLOUDY
I'LL BE LEAVING NOW
I'M GOING TO LURE THE DARK DEMON OUT FOR SURE,
SO EVERY-ONE PLEASE HIDE INSIDE UNTIL THEN.

KYOU, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.

THE DARK ENERGY IS SLOWLY GAINING STRENGTH.

A DARK DEMON!!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE WORN THIS KIND OF NORMAL STREET CLOTHES.
IT FEELS KIND OF WEIRD...
SHUDDER
Slurp...

WE HAVE A DEAL ...
I WILL BE ALLOWED THE PLEASURE TO STAB ANY LIVING BODY..
Bam
... IT'S NO GOOD ...
DASH
UWAAAAHHH! HELP ME!!

HEY, HEY, WAIT UP.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME FUN TO-GETHER.
THAT'S IT! COME AFTER ME JUST LIKE THIS
WELL, IT'S CER-TAINLY MORE FUN TO HAVE A FEISTY PREY.
SLASH
!!

SFXS: BDMP

TH
I DON'T WANNA LOSE ANYTHING ANYMORE!
UD
...SHIRA-YUKI, KU-O-MINE!
WHACK
FOOM
GO!!
WHOOSH

I'M PRETTY SURE I STABBED DEEP...
...HUH?
THAT'S SIMPLE—
BECAUSE I DON'T DIE SO EASILY.
...HOW COME YOU'RE NOT DEAD YET?
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT!
THAT MEANS I CAN SLASH YOU AS MUCH AS I WANT?

STAND
...I'M GOING TO BEAT YOU UP...
YOU LITTLE JERK
...
AND YOU, TOO, SAYA-OU!!
... DON'T YOU KNOW?
"MADNESS" IS THE TRUE CHARACTER OF A MAN ... WHO HIDES BEHIND REASON.
THIS IS A MAN WHO OFFERS HIS OWN BODY TO ME...
IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE POWER TO SATISFY HIS MADNESS.
OF COURSE, HIS BODY WILL BECOME THE SHELL OF MY DARK PUPPET.

SO... WHICH ONE WILL IT BE FOR YOU?
AFTER ALL...
TO LIVE IS TO CONTROL OR BE CONTROLLED.
I DON'T CARE IF I'M BEING CONTROLLED,
AS LONG AS I CAN STAB ALL LIVING THINGS!
HACK
I'M SURE EVEN SOMEONE LIKE YOU...
KNOWS THE MEANING OF "PAIN"!

FOOSH
!!
I DES-
PER-
ATELY
...
DESIRE
YOUR
BODY!!

A TEMPORARY DELUSION IS NOT ENOUGH FOR ME...
IF YOUR BODY WERE MINE...
IF YOU WERE MY PUPPET, I WOULD BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE YOU AS I PLEASED
KYOU...?
KYOU!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
.....
HEY...

SERIAL PHANTOM KILLER CAUGHT
Juvenile suspect-Pending psychological evaluation.
I THINK A CRIME IS A CRIME WHETHER YOU'RE UNDERAGE OR NOT
GEEZ...
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GO
KUROMINE, CHANGE BACK TO YOUR DRAGON FORM.
HEY... WAIT... JUST A MINUTE
I'm coming with you
Gurdle
IT'S GOOD, ISN'T IT?
THAT GUY IS CURSED TO CHASE AFTER YOUR SHADOW FOREVER
UNTIL HE COMES TO UNDERSTAND "THE MEANING OF PAIN", RIGHT?
OH, YOU GUYS ARE LEAVING ALREADY?
AH, YES
UH... THANKS FOR LETTING US STAY HERE

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
I WILL
Here, I made some rice balls for you.
MAKE SURE YOU STAY CLOSE TO KYOU, ALL RIGHT?
THANK YOU.
Who said he could strike such fear?
OKAY, LET'S GO!!
PLEASE COME VISIT AGAIN ANY TIME.
YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS, TOO, KYOU.
.....
MAYBE IF I FEEL LIKE IT AND YOU GUYS AREN'T DEAD YET...
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL BE WAITING
PLEASE LET US SEE YOUR HAPPY FACE ONCE MORE WHILE WE'RE STILL ALIVE
...KEH...

IS IT REALLY OKAY, KYOU?
GIEN IS FLYING WITH US
SO SHOULD I KICK HIM OFF?
NO THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT
HMM. KYOU.
CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
IS THE REASON WHY YOU WANT TO HUNT DOWN THE DARK DEMONS
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO END YOUR LIFE?
...THAT'S A STUPID QUESTION.

OBVIOUSLY, IT'S BECAUSE I WANT TO LIVE
YEAH...
OF COURSE THAT'S WHAT IT IS...
...IF YOUR BODY WERE MINE...
THAT TIME...
IF YOU WERE MY PUPPET, I WOULD BE ABLE TO MANIPULATE YOU AS I PLEASED
HIS VOICE WAS SHAKING SLIGHTLY
A TEMPORARY DELUSION IS...
SAYAOU
NOT ENOUGH FOR ME...
WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
Chapter Three / End